Rural District Council of Dartford.

THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

C. M. OCKWELL, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Rural District Council of Dartford.

Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

To the Members of the Dartford Rural District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Thirty-eighth Annual Report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	34,110
Population (Census 1931)	31,253
Resident population	32,510
No. of inhabited houses (about)	9,187
Rateable Value	£200,445
Sum represented by penny rate	£770

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	490	260	230	Birth rate of 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.5
	Illegitimate	19	11	8		

General birth rate for England and Wales, 14.9.

		Total	M.	F.		
Stillbirths	Legitimate	13	6	7	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	26.7
	Illegitimate	1	1			
		14	7	7		
Deaths		322	141	181	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.0

General death rate for England and Wales, 12.4.

Deaths from puereral causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrars-General's Short List).	From puerperal sepsis	0
	From other puerperal causes ...	1
	Total	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	1.9

Death rate of Children under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	37.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	210

General death rate of infants under one year of age for England and Wales	58
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—

Out of 523 births notified in the district, 182 occurred in Hospitals and 26 in Private Nursing Homes.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :—C. M. Ockwell, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.(Camb.).

Sanitary Inspectors (whole time):—F. Sutch, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.; T. H. Iddison, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Pupil Inspector : S. F. Hollands. **Clerk** : H. L. Earl.

Health Visitors (whole time) :—Nurse Barnes, Nurse Lowe. Nurse Bates.

The districts have been re-arranged for health visiting, the area being allocated to each Health Visitor according to Births notified.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year the following specimens were sent from this district to the County Laboratory :—

Swabs	...	...	305
Sputa	...	...	105
Other	...	...	6

School Milk Samples Bacteriological count 142

There is nothing further to note under the following headings :—

Ambulance Facilities.
Nursing in the Home.
Treatment Centres.
Hospitals.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932.

Reports received from the Visitors continue satisfactory and there has been no cause for action.

CLINICS.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The attendances were as follows :—

Clinic.		No. of clinics held.		Average attendance.
Ash	...	19	...	16
Longfield	...	22	...	28
Southfleet	...	23	...	14
Stone	...	24	...	58
Horton Kirby	...	22	...	39
Swanley	...	24	...	64
Wilmington	...	24	...	37
Farningham	...	23	...	17
Darenth	...	24	...	39

Ante-Natal Clinics.—

Clinic.		Total attendances.
Swanley	...	100
Wilmington	...	9
Stone	...	97
Longfield	...	20
Southfleet	...	8
Horton Kirby	...	14

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The number of premises not connected to water supplies is 338. The number of premises connected to public supplies is 8,840.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There have been sewer extensions at Sutton-at-Hone and Hextable by private owners developing estates in these parishes.

Deposition of House Refuse.—Improvement is still maintained at the Southwark Borough Council's Dump, at the Longfield Siding.

Rivers and Streams.—No difficulty encountered during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year 28 cesspools were abolished, 24 repaired, new drainage installed and premises connected to new sewers, where cesspools were abolished.

W.C's discharging into drainage system ...	6,930
W.C's discharging into cesspools ...	1,836
Pail closets	87
Earth closets	253

Public Cleansing.—Arrangements remain the same.

CEMENT DUST.

Visits have been made to the works and consultations held from time to time with their officials and with Dr. Carter, the Inspector under the Alkali Acts. On one occasion Dr. Jones and Mr. Arnaud (County Analyst) from Maidstone also joined in the consultations and visits. The present position is as follows:—

Johnson's Works are now **fully** equipped with electrical precipitators.

Kent Works are **fully** equipped with water spray apparatus. This method is probably slightly better than that of the electrical precipitator, but it is found in practice to be much more expensive in upkeep and plans are in hand to substitute electrical precipitators.

Swanscombe (White's Works) are only half equipped. The equipment for two kilns has been held up on account of the steel shortage but the electrical apparatus for all kilns has now been installed. All that remains to do is to connect the kilns to the Chimney Shaft by flues which are connected with the new apparatus. The Company expect the whole equipment to be in full working order in three months.

Relatively minor sources of dust emission occur in connection with :—

(1) **The Clinker Elevator.**—The Clinker is hot and is cooled by water which causes a large amount of water vapour, which carries with it some dust. The problem of dealing with this is a difficult one. The method of water washing is to be applied in the near future.

(2) **Grinding and Bagging Machine.**—Here vast improvement has taken place during the last two to three months at the Kent and Swanscombe Works and the system adopted is to be put in operation at Johnson's.

It has to be kept in mind with the present day enormous output of cement that a tiny fractional percentage escape of dust will in the aggregate amount to an appreciable quantity and its effects are likely to be accentuated in periods of dry weather. The question of the works on the Essex side had arisen and doubtless some of the dust comes from there. I was given details of the equipment of those works. Generally speaking the electrical device has been adopted as a standard and will soon be complete in all works.

Some complaint has been received relative to the Kent Power Station which supplies power to both Kent and Johnson's, of black gritty dust, due to the type of coal dust used.

The installation of cyclones between fire and chimney is being carried out and will soon be finished. This is expected to be effectual.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two swimming pools in the district, at The Manor House, Kingsdown, and Woodlands Holiday Camp, Kingsdown. 4 Samples of water were taken periodically and found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. in district.	*No. of visits in 1937.*	*No. of faults and defects found.*	*No. of faults and defects remedied.*
Bakehouses	14	36	8	8
Dairies	26	358	32	32
Slaughter houses { Registered ...	—	—	—	—
Slaughter houses { Licensed	12	1,082	9	9
Other food-preparing places which are as such, subject to inspection	9	25	3	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses ...	—	—	—	—
Houses let in lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	23	10	2	2
Workshops	36	5	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	51	17	3	3

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

1. (a) (i) Number of Council houses found to be infested 4.
   (ii) Disinfested 4.
   (b) (i) Number of private houses found to be infested 19.
   (ii) Disinfested 19.

2. Method employed for freeing infested houses is by stripping wall paper, all walls, skirtings, mouldings, frames, etc., are then sprayed with Zaldecide.

3. Any clothing found to be verminous is sent to Bow Arrow Hospital and put through steam disinfector.

4. All the work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

The figures of children attending the Clinics for immunization were as follows :—

Farningham	... 102
Wilmington	... 50
Horton Kirby	... 73
Swanley	... 94
Darenth	... 134
Longfield	... 98
Stone	... 145
Southfleet	... 97
	793

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation):—

Overcrowding	72	Refuse Receptacles ...	34
Keeping of Animals	1	Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	26
Hop-pickers' Camps	12	Smoke nuisances	2
Sanitary Accommodation :—		Yard Paving	12
(i) Insufficient	7	Dampness	91
(ii) Defective	64	Roofs and rain water pipes ...	44
Drainage—		Floors	30
(i) Reconstructed ...	21	Walls and ceilings	380
(ii) Repaired	14	Windows and ventilation ...	53
(iii) Cleansed	50	Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	19
Cesspools—		Water supplies	21
(i) Abolished	2		
(ii) Repaired	4		
(iii) Privies abolished ...	—		
Offensive accumulations ...	29		
Miscellaneous	61		

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year		...	10,016
Approximate number of separate **premises** in area		...	9175
Notices served, Statutory ...	21	Informal	336
No. of houses, etc., disinfected ...	155	Batches of clothing ...	155

Legal proceedings and results :—

(a) Under Section 14 Housing Act 1936. Fine £5 and £1 1 0 costs, daily penalty of 10/- per day for 21 days.

(b) Under Section 8 Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. Fine £5 for not notifying, £2 slaughtering without a licence and £3 3 0 costs.

HOUSING.

(1) Inspection of dwelling-houses :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses **inspected** for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 531

Number of inspections made for that purpose 2453

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were **inspected** and **recorded** under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 221

Number of inspections made for that purpose 1682

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 30

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 103

(2) Remedy of Defects **without** service of formal notice :—
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of **informal** action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 122

(3) Action under Statutory powers :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 2

(a) Owners agreed to accept Demolition Orders in 11 cases

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 210

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners—all work done by informal action 210
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 34

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 34

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

(3) Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority ... 1226

(4) Number of new houses built during 1937 :—

(a) by the Local Authority 106

(b) by other bodies or persons 185

(5) Shortage of housing accommodation for working classes :—

Houses required (a) to replace unsatisfactory property 9

(b) to provide additional accommodation ... —

NOTE.—C. (2) Properties demolished :—

1-15, Elizabeth Street, Stone.
1-2, Upper Bean Farm Cottage.
1-8, Brakefield Place, Southfleet.
1-4, New Barn Cottages, Southfleet.
1-3, Hatched Cottages, Darenth.
Read's Cottage, Darenth.
2 Sheds, Hever Estate, Kingsdown.

D. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 20

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 20

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 139

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 27

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 84

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 419

At Swanley 24 houses are being built to deal with overcrowding as follows :—

6 1 Bedroom Type.
6 2 ,, ,,
6 3 ,, ,,
4 4 ,, ,,
2 5 ,, ,,

At Darenth 20 houses are being built for the same purpose :—

6 1 Bedroom Type.
3 2 ,, ,,
3 3 Bedroom Type.
8 4 ,, ,,

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The following are the graded Milk Producers in the district :

Messrs. Allen & Newman, Wilmington ...	T.T. Tested (Cert.)
E. E. Taylor, Kingsdown	—do—
J. & B. Martin, Horton Kirby	Accredited.
M. T. Fulford, Ash	,,
D. N. Dallen, Hartley	,,
W. Alexander, Eynsford	,,
Miss Davies-Cooke, Hartley	,,

Monthly inspection is made of all dairies and cowsheds. Two producers were added to the Accredited Roll, and two producers were preparing for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. Three producers on Accredited list negotiating with County Council for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. Samples of milk are taken regularly in accordance with instructions received from the County Medical Officer.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—All carcases are subject to post mortem examination and ante-mortem examination when time of slaughtering permits.

No stalls exist in the Dartford Rural Area.

All vehicles used as shops are stopped and meat examined.

Routine inspection is made of all butcher's shops and other food preparing premises.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Deer
Number killed ...	184	25	105	826	1442	6
Number Inspected ...	164	25	105	826	1442	6
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases Condemned...	—	—	—	8	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	27	2	—	51	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	14.4%	8%	—	7.1%	1.9%	33 1/3%
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	20	1	—	44	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.8%	89%	·95%	—	3·5%	—

(c) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—Samples of glace cherries were submitted to the County Laboratory, that had been returned to the Army and Navy Co-operative Factory, Swanley Junction. The cherries were found to be sound and fit for human consumption.

(d) **Nutrition.**—During the week, November 1st—5th, a Health Week was arranged throughout the Rural Area, 8 special meetings for Mothers and Welfare Workers, with lectures and supporting films, regarding the care of children generally, nutrition and care of teeth, etc., were held, and subsequent follow-up talks were given by the Health Visitors at the Welfare Centres. Evening meetings with films were arranged for Parents and were well attended.

(e) **Shell Fish and Other Fish.**—There are no shell-fish beds in the waterside area of the Rural District. All shell fish sold in the area comes from Billingsgate Market.

8 lbs. of shrimps, 4 quarts of winkles, and 2½lbs. of fresh herrings were seized and destroyed.

Slaughterhouses.—There are twelve slaughterhouses in the district. All are generally clean ; slaughtering is by humane methods and constant supervision is carried out by Inspectors.

Bakehouses.—Periodic inspections are made of the fourteen bakehouses in the district and there has been no cause for complaint.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease.	*Total Cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths.*
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	58	23*	—
Diphtheria	27	10*	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	21
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Polio-myelitis	4	4	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	108	39	23

*16 Diphtheria cases, 15 Scarlet Fever cases, 2 cases of Erysipelas, 4 Pneumonia, occurred at Institutions and Hospitals and were either isolated there or sent to Isolation Hospitals outside this area.

The Registrar General's figures show a death from Encephalitis Lithargica of which we have no record.

AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	4	6	3	14	5	7	11	3	2	1	58
Diphtheria ...	—	—	2	1	5	3	8	3	4	—	1	—	27
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	2	2	2	11
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Polio-myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	6	7	9	22	14	10	22	7	5	3	108

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	*New Cases.*				*Deaths.*			
	Pulmonary.		*Non-Pulmonary.*		*Pulmonary.*		*Non-Pulmonary.*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
1—5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—25	2	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
25—35	6	4	—	—	3	2	1	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
45—55	5	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	19	10	5	4	9	7	4	—

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths, 4 to 12.

Enquiries are made where notifications have not been made.

Doctors are written to when there have been oversights.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action was taken.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—No action was taken.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.—No action was taken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Defects found.	Defects remedied.
Factories (including Factory laundries) ...	10	2	2
Workshops (including Workshop laundries) ...	5	2	2
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	17	3	2
Totals ...	32	7	7

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	*Remedied.*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector.*	
Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	8	8	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation — Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation — Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation — Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total ...	10	10	—	—

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. OCKWELL.